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Local, A3

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Some SH stores plan to open this weekend

Others say they won't risk possibly defying order

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — Memorial Day weekend is one of the biggest revenue boosters of the year for downtown South Haven merchants.

That's why some of the store owners say they plan to open up their doors this weekend for "business as usual," rather than wait until Tuesday – the day Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's latest executive order allows them to reopen for inside sales, on a very limited basis.

Denise Pigozzi-Nordby is one of those retailers planning to reopen. She owns Rambling Rose, a shop that offers a variety of decorative home and food products.

"It (Memorial Day weekend) is one of the top two weekends for us," Nordby said. "It's essential to be open."

Carla Kolesar, owner of Bells and Whistles home and fashion accessory shop, agrees.

"It (Memorial Day weekend sales) is extremely important," she said. "We've already missed spring break. We lost a pretty big chunk (of business) when we lost April."

South Haven City Council members voted 6-1 on Monday to allow downtown merchants to conduct sidewalk sales this weekend, provided they are considered as "essential" businesses that provide food and safety products, as part of Whitmer's original executive order issued in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Most retailers, under the governor's order, are considered "non-essential" under the stay-at-home order, and therefore are not allowed to let people inside to purchase products. Instead, they've only been allowed to offer curbside or delivery service.

However, some South Haven's downtown merchants say the governor's restrictions have severely impacted their livelihoods. So on Wednesday, approximately 20 members of the Downtown Association of South Haven conducted an online Zoom conference with South Haven Police Chief Natalie Thompson, seeking clarification regarding the governor's order.

"What would be a way we could open?" asked Chris Campbell, owner of two downtown shops. "How do we define curbside?

See RETAILERS, page A10

Photo by Becky Kark

Liz Woods, co-owner of Sweet Haven candy shop in downtown South Haven, stocks several shelves with confections. Woods is one of the few retailers downtown considered "essential," so she has kept her the store open during the governor's stay-home order.

ST. JOSEPH

Don Campbell / HP staff

Crews work on Thursday to demolish the home at Hoyt Street and Niles Avenue in St. Joseph. The city had attempted to raze the building, known for the unsightly tarp draped over the damaged roof, for a number of years.

'Tarp house' demolished after lengthy legal battle

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The dilapidated house in St. Joseph, known for the large tarp draped over its missing roof, was demolished Thursday – finally.

St. Joseph commissioners previously voted in favor of hiring B&Z Co. to take on the demolition project in April.

This comes after a years-long effort by city officials to get Dennis Knuth, owner of the property, to repair or remove the structure that has had a tarp over its roof since 2016.

While it cost about $24,300 to raze the house at 1501 Niles Ave., the expenses stemming from the demolition will be added to the owner's property taxes.

The back-and-forth battle began when city inspectors noticed exterior defects at the property, starting in 2013, which including the damaged roof. The owner was given more than a year to fix the problems, but no work was done.

The issue resurfaced in 2015, and Knuth took out a permit to fix the roof, but again no work was done, despite repeated reminders.

In 2017, the city inspector obtained a search warrant to enter the house. Inside they found extensive water damage, mold, debris, crumbling walls and holes in the floor.

A demolition order was issued, and was appealed to the property maintenance board. The city inspector claimed it would cost $122,000 to repair the house that had a market value of around

See DEMOLISHED, page A2

Berrien records 6 COVID-19 deaths in 1 day

Total now stands at 40

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Berrien County experienced its highest one-day COVID-19 death toll on Thursday.

The Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) reported six COVID-19 deaths, all happening between Wednesday morning and Thursday morning.

"It's just unfortunately been a rough couple of days," BCHD spokesperson Gillian Conrad said Thursday afternoon.

She said deaths will lag behind cases being reported, as people's symptoms worsen, they are hospitalized and then die.

The deaths Thursday included one women in her 90s, three women in their 80s, one woman in her 70s and one man in his 80s.

The county now has 40 total COVID-19 deaths.

The state reported a higher death total Thursday due to some adjustments made through a review process of death certificates. Conrad said that didn't account for any of Berrien County's additional deaths.

In addition Thursday, the county added 12 new confirmed COVID-19 cases, and 18 new recoveries.

With 564 cumulative cases, 363 recoveries and 40 deaths, that brings the county down to about 161 active cases – 12 less than Wednesday.

Spectrum Health Lakeland was treating 25 COVID-19 patients as

See UPDATE, page A2

Michigan retail, showrooms, medical, dental services to reopen with rules

By TODD SPANGLER
Detroit Free Press

LANSING — As coronavirus cases and deaths continue to decline in Michigan, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Thursday that she is lifting portions of her earlier stay-at-home order and reopening more parts of Michigan's economy.

Effective immediately, she said, people across Michigan are allowed to engage in social gatherings of no more than 10 people, which had been restricted, provided they wear face covering if in close spaces and try to maintain social distancing of six feet or more when around people they don't live with.

She also said:

- Many retail businesses across the state can reopen May 26, but by appointment only for customers. That was limited, however, to stores that sell goods or are related to those services, and did not include bars or in-house dining at restaurants.
- Auto showrooms can reopen by appointment on May 26.
- Veterinary services can begin again on May 29.
- Non-emergency dental services and other medical procedures considered non-essential can resume on May 29.

The order does not provide for the reopening of barber shops or salons or any other businesses not specified in the order. Gyms, libraries, theaters and other public entertainment facilities remain closed.

"This is another positive step forward," Whitmer said at a briefing with reporters where she discussed both the ongoing response to the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic which as of Wednesday has killed 5,060 Michiganders since March. She said a continuing decline in cases and deaths across the state, along with an increase in testing, showed the state was ready for such a move.

She cautioned, however, that people need to remain vigilant, wear face masks and practice social distancing, or there could be a resurgence of the virus

"What we don't want to do is re-engage like nothing's changed," she said.

She also said that it is almost certain that, with the additional relaxing of her order, that it will be extended past its scheduled May 28 expiration, though it wasn't clear when she would extend it, or until when. Whitmer made it sound from her remarks that such an extension might not occur until next week.

The Republican-controlled state Legislature is contesting her authority to make and extend those orders under a state of emergency she has declared. Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens could rule any time on the lawsuit filed against Whitmer, though it's expected that any ruling will be appealed.

Change comes after reopening of northern Michigan bars, restaurants

Whitmer had previously allowed certain business, like plant nurseries and bicycle repair shops that had been

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The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Tomorrow's Weather
High 70 Low 63

6 50645 49085 0

Defiant barber wins in state's bid to close shop

By ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT — A judge on Thursday rejected a request to force scissors out of the hands of a defiant Michigan barber during the coronavirus pandemic.

The state health department failed to show that Karl Manke's shop was a specific threat to public health, Shiawassee County Judge Matthew Stewart said.

Manke reopened his shop in Owosso on May 4, drawing customers from across the state who were inspired by his plea for freedom from a government shutdown. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said barber shops and hair salons are risky places because of the contagious virus.

Manke, 77, has received at least two tickets for violating Whitmer's orders, and his barber license was suspended last week. Nonetheless, he said he's still cutting hair.

"Listen, I've been in this business for 59 years. She wants to come cut my hands off, that's another story," Manke said in an interview, referring to the governor.

DEMOLISHED

From page A1

$50,000, after repairs.

The owner sought a reversal of a Court of Appeals decision that upheld the city's 2017 demolition order.

That was preceded by concurring decisions by the Berrien County court and the city's Property Maintenance Board of Appeals that the house was uninhabitable because of extensive mold and water damage, and should be torn down.

In October 2019, the Michigan Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of the order to demolish the house.

The owner had argued the demolition order was issued without due process of law, and that he wasn't given enough time to make repairs. However, the state's Supreme Court apparently did not see it that way.

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UPDATE

From page A1

of Thursday morning, with six of those in the intensive care unit. That's one less patient hospitalized than Wednesday.

Van Buren County added one case over Tuesday, as it added no new cases Wednesday. The county now has 117 cumulative cases.

Cass County added two cases, bringing its cumulative total to 68.

Van Buren County still has six deaths and Cass County still has two.

Local COVID-19 numbers and information can be found at www.bchdmi.org, and at www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19. For state numbers, visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

LOTTERIES

Thursday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
KD-AS-3D-7H-8S
Midday Daily 3
3-3-8
Midday Daily 4
3-8-6-2
Daily 3
6-0-5
Daily 4
7-5-0-3
Fantasy 5
11-20-23-28-33
Estimated jackpot
$100,000
Keno
06-10-12-23-24-26-27-33-37-39-44-45-47-50-52-53-55-63-66-68-74-76
Mega Millions jackpot
$298 million
Powerball jackpot
$104 million

Wednesday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
11-24-27-40-43
Estimated jackpot
$516,000
Cash4Life
11-29-40-53-57, Cash Ball: 1
Lotto Plus
09-10-23-27-33-35
Quick Draw Midday
03-07-13-15-16-18-20-21-25-31-40-46-48-54-61-63-64-65-68-72, BE: 65
Daily Three-Midday
2-4-0, SB: 1
Daily Three-Evening
0-4-9, SB: 9
Daily Four-Midday
0-0-7-9, SB: 1
Daily Four-Evening
5-8-1-5, SB: 9
Quick Draw Evening
01-04-10-18-21-27-29-30-41-50-53-55-58-59-60-67-71-72-75-79, BE: 21
Hoosier Lotto
12-16-19-20-24-34
Estimated jackpot
$2 million
Powerball
18-34-40-42-50, Powerball: 9, Power Play: 2
Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
02-12-16-28-35
Estimated jackpot
$500,000
Pick Three-Midday
5-8-4, Fireball: 4
Pick Three-Evening
3-2-0, Fireball: 6
Pick Four-Midday
6-7-5-6, Fireball: 8
Pick Four-Evening
1-8-3-8, Fireball: 7
Lucky Day Lotto
03-05-30-38-39
Estimated jackpot
$550,000

– The Associated Press

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Trump tours Michigan Ford plant

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

YPSILANTI — Pandemic politics shadowed President Donald Trump's trip to Michigan on Thursday as he highlighted lifesaving medical devices, with the president and officials from the electoral battleground state clashing over federal aid, mail-in ballots and face masks.

Trump visited Ypsilanti, outside Detroit, to tour a Ford Motor Co. factory that had been repurposed to manufacture ventilators, the medical breathing machines governors begged for during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But his visit came amid a long-running feud with the state's Democratic governor and a day after the president threatened to withhold federal funds over the state's expanded vote-by-mail effort. And, again, the president did not publicly wear a face covering despite a warning from the state's top law enforcement officer that a refusal to do so might lead to a ban on his return.

Alex Brandon / AP

President Donald Trump holds a face mask in his left hand as speaks during a tour of Ford's Rawsonville Components Plant that has been converted to making personal protection and medical equipment, Thursday.

All of the Ford executives giving Trump the tour were wearings masks, the president standing alone without one. At one point, he did take a White House-branded mask from his pocket and claim to reporters he had worn it elsewhere on the tour, out of public view.

"I did not want to give the press the pleasure of seeing it," Trump said.

For a moment, he also teasingly held up a clear shield in front of his face. A statement from Ford said that Bill Ford, the company's executive chairman, "encouraged President Trump to wear a mask when he arrived" and said the president wore it during "a private viewing of three Ford GTs from over the years" before removing it.

The United Auto Workers union noted in a statement that "some in his entourage" declined face masks and said "it is vitally important that our members continue to follow the protocols that have been put in place to safeguard them, their families and their communities."

The UAW also noted Trump's statement that he had just been tested for the virus and said it wanted to make sure he understood the wider "need for an economical instant test that can be administered daily to further protect our members – and all Americans."

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said that mask wearing isn't just Ford's policy but it's also the law in a state that's among those hardest hit by the virus. Nessel said that if Trump refused to wear a mask Thursday "he's going to be asked not to return to any enclosed facilities inside our state" and "we're going to have to take action" against any company that allows it in the future.

RETAILERS

From page A10

What would it take for us to be essential?"

Thompson told merchants that according to the governor's original stay-at-home order, individuals can leave their homes to purchase groceries, takeout food, gasoline, needed medical supplies, and any other products necessary to maintain safety, sanitation and operation of their residence or motor vehicles."

The order seems simple enough, but as with most laws, there is a loophole, and Thompson said she discovered that recently when a "non-essential" business was ordered to close after allowing customers inside to shop.

"If you only have small percentage of sales, I don't think you're following order," Thompson told the group of merchants. But she went on to say that one local business was allowed to remain open, even though very few of its products would be considered as ones to maintain safety, sanitation and operation of homes and vehicles.

"The order makes no reference to any required percentage of essential products or services offered by a business," Thompson said. "We can't say, 'You have to close based on the percentage of essential items you sell.'"

A number of downtown retailers do sell soap products, mainly ones that are decorative or scented. Others sell gourmet food products or candy.

Thompson told merchants she wasn't trying to encourage businesses to utilize the apparent loophole in the executive order, and reopen their doors to allow customers to shop inside.

In an interview with The HP on Thursday, Thompson reiterated this point.

"The police department will continue to respond to any complaints of businesses operating in violation of the current executive order," she said. "These are handled on a case-by-case basis. I have not advocated for any businesses to operate around 'loopholes.'"

"The police department is not receiving reports of any businesses ignoring the order, but we have responded to many that have requested specific language in the order," she went on to say. "The city is continuing efforts to educate and share information as it pertains to the executive order to ensure all have accurate information to comply with."

Becky Kark / For The Herald-Palladium

Bells & Whistles opened up its sidewalk sales a day early. Several racks of clothing were on display Thursday for people to examine. Memorial Day weekend sidewalk sales in downtown South Haven officially begin today and continue through Sunday.

Not every downtown business is reopening for interior customer traffic. Some, like Emma's clothing shop and Shooting Star gift shop, plan to remain closed. Others, such as SoHa Surf Shop, are only allowing curbside service.

Some downtown retailers don't wish to take a chance and violate the governor's latest order.

Tom McCreery, owner of N&R Department Store, said he'd rather wait until Tuesday, rather than trying to ratchet up sales during Memorial Day weekend.

"I don't think it's (foot and vehicle traffic) going to be that busy," he said, adding that he wants to have more time to safely allow customers inside his store.

According to the governor's order, when retail shops do reopen, they will need to ensure their employees have masks and access to hand sanitizers and/or soap. Customers will also continue to be required to wear masks.

But at least one downtown retailer has noticed less and less people wearing masks.

"I think this weekend is going to be big, but unfortunately people aren't wearing masks," said Liz Woods, co-owner of Sweet Haven candy shop in downtown South Haven.

Woods is one of the few retailers downtown considered "essential," so it has remained open under the governor's stay-at-home order. Business, though has been slow. Over the past several weeks, however, business has been picking up, especially on weekends, she said.

WHITMER

From page A1

ordered to close in March as nonessential, to reopen and others to do so as long as they provided curbside delivery.

On Monday, she also decided to reopen retail businesses, including bars and restaurants, beginning at 12:01 a.m. Friday in the Upper Peninsula and certain parts of northern Michigan around Traverse City that have had relatively few COVID-19 cases – though with the caveat that they must operate at limited capacity and enforce social distancing and have people wear masks.

Offices were allowed to reopen in those parts of northern Michigan and in the U.P. as well, as long as they followed guidelines to protect employees and the work could not be done remotely.

The governor said Thursday that data from those areas showing continued low rates of coronavirus cases and deaths allowed her to take that step there. She said while the rest of the state is seeing vast improvements as well, the data did not yet suggest to her she should relax restrictions to that degree statewide.

"All regions are ready for us to take this small step forward," she said.

With the holiday weekend almost here, it meant that friends and neighbors could, for the first time since March, legally gather in groups of 10 or less, as long as they did so while practicing other rules in the order. As a practical matter, there have been few if any law enforcement actions taken for such potential violations.

Why the delay?

Whitmer said she was holding off on reopening retail businesses and doctors and dental offices until next week to give them time to prepare for customers and schedule appointments.

"With today's announcement, physicians and health care providers in Michigan are ready to resume taking care of patients," said Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, president of the Michigan State Medical Society. "It is time for patients to catch up on the care that has been deferred for the past two months."

Appearing with Whitmer at Thursday's briefing, Mukkamala and other representatives of businesses and services allowed to reopen, said they planned to take every precaution to ensure that customers and workers were protected from the possible spread of the virus.

Doug North, chairman of the 2021 North American International Auto Show in Detroit and president of North Brothers Ford in Westland, said: "This is great news for dealerships across the state ... and we welcome the opportunity to serve our customers in a way that helps keep everyone safe."

Whitmer has been criticized by Republicans especially for her orders, but there is evidence that most Michiganders are both supportive of her handling of the crisis and a gradual reopening of the state.

A statewide poll released Wednesday by the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce found that 64 percent of those surveyed approved of Whitmer's response, compared to 33 percent of those who did not.

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hp LOCAL & STATE

BERRIEN COUNTY

Board hires Dissette, who expects to start July 1

Contract negotiations still must be finalized

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

DISSETTE

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County commissioners Thursday unanimously approved hiring South Haven City Manager Brian Dissette as the county's next administrator.

He is expected to start July 1 after going through contract negotiations with the county. He will replace Administrator Bill Wolf, who is retiring June 12.

Dissette said that during his 12 years as South Haven's manager, he's built strong relationships with surrounding municipalities, which he wants to do with Berrien County.

"We've created shared services for recreation, for planning (and) zoning," he said before he was hired. "We've improved shared services for police operations, and then we've refined and grown our shared services for our ambulance and fire service."

He said it was important to build those relationships because South Haven is only 3.5 square miles, but its utilities are spread out over 20 square miles.

"Treating the townships ... and businesses within that area as valued partners has been what we focused on, and I think it's really helped us grow," he said.

Dissette said most recently he helped to cut the ribbon on the last of the downtown streets to be completely reconstructed.

"That's something that we just tackled one after another," he said. "We have a dedicated capital improvement plan. We follow it."

He said he would like to implement a similar program in Berrien County.

"I've built an incredible team of folks that I work with on a daily basis," he said. "I know that if I leave there today, they're going to be in absolutely fine condition. I'm eager to continue that team building effort ... and try something new."

Dissette was hired as South Haven's assistant city manager in 2006 before being named the city manager in 2008.

A South Haven native, he is married to Kelly Getman-Dissette. They have three children.

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KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Don Campbell / HP staff

Anne Reitz, left, operator of the Wally and Gertz concession stand at Silver Beach, prepares on Thursday to open for the upcoming three-day Memorial Day holiday. The stand, which be open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., is encouraging customers to follow COVID-19 social distancing guidelines through the placement of plastic flamingos.

BERRIEN COUNTY TRIAL COURT

Sentences

St. Joseph

Assaulting/resisting police

Davion J. Looney, 22, of Bishop Avenue, Benton Harbor, 40 days in jail, credit for 40 days served, and $198 in costs for assaulting/resisting and obstructing Benton Harbor Public Safety Officer Jacob Wright Dec. 9, 2019, in Benton Harbor; a concurrent term of 38 days, $2,418 in fines and costs, 2 years probation and completion of the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program for receiving and concealing a weapon, a firearm, April 11 in in Benton Harbor.

Home invasion

Warren Emanual-Lydell Clark, 23, of Lakeshore Drive, St. Joseph, 150 months to 30 years in prison, $454 in costs and $256 in restitution for first-degree home invasion; and three consecutive terms of 24 to 90 months and $68 in costs for carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of weapons and ammunition by a felon July 30, 2019, in Sodus Township.

Assault

Terrance D. Swanson, 45, of Buss Avenue, Benton Harbor, 38 months to 5 years in prison, credit for 154 days served, and $198 in costs for domestic violence, third offense, an assault on a woman, Dec. 9, 2019, in Benton Harbor.

Breaking/entering

Michael W. Walls, 42, of Kalamazoo, 38 months to 10 years in prison, credit for 44 days served, for breaking and entering a building with intent, March 21 at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Eau Claire.

Drugs

Robert L. Aldrich, 48, of Michigan City, Ind., 57 days in jail, credit for 57 days served, and $198 in costs for possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, Jan. 10 in New Buffalo Township.

Niles

Assaulting/resisting police

Jordan P. Lofton, 23, of Sherwood Street, Dowagiac, 57 days in jail, credit for 57 days served, $598 in fines and costs, $1,792 in restitution, 2 years probation and completion of the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program, for assaulting/resisting and obstructing police, March 24, 2019, in Oronoko Township.

Assault

Rebecca M. Key, 30, of North Old U.S.-31, Niles, 90 days in jail, credit for 42 days served, $898 in fines and costs and 2 years probation for assault with a dangerous weapon, an assault on a man with a box cutter, March 24 in Niles Township.

Jesse B. Webster, 29, of East Main Street, Niles, 120 days in jail, credit for 59 days served, and $198 in costs for attempted assault with a dangerous weapon, an ax, March 14 in Niles.

Drugs

Carl R. Morris Jr., 52, of South Bend, 1 year in jail, credit for 378 days served, $198 in costs and driver's license suspended for 1 year for possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, March 12, 2019, in Oronoko Township.

BH Public Safety gets grant for new breathing apparatus

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Benton Harbor firefighters received an almost $264,000 state grant for much needed breathing apparatus, Public Safety Director Dan McGinnis said Wednesday.

He said the money will pay for 30 self-contained breathing apparatus, which includes masks and packs with air bottles that firefighters wear when they need to go into a smokey building. In addition, he said the money will pay for a new air compressor to fill the air bottles with.

"All those things we have now are currently old and failing," he said.

He said the air compressor is at least 30 years old and is currently out of order.

"We can't even fill our own air bottles," he said. "We have to go to St. Joe to fill them."

Even when the air compressor was working, he said it could fill the air bottles to only about 60 percent capacity.

In addition, he said Benton Harbor firefighters are the only ones not using Scott fire and safety equipment. With the grant, he said the department will buy Scott equipment.

Benton Harbor was one of 14 municipalities receiving a grant through the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships (FDCVT) Grant Program. In total, the state awarded $2.7 million in grants.

"I am pleased to announce that this year's grant awards will help fund infrastructure and public safety projects in Michigan communities," State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks said in a news release. "These dollars will enhance those critical services that residents depend on every day, and even more so during times of crisis like these."

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BERRIEN COUNTY

HP file photo

Transportation Management Inc. officials told Berrien County staff last week that they will no longer manage Berrien Bus after June 30.

Berrien Bus management company to call it quits on June 30

Move leaves county scrambling to figure out a plan

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County commissioners are looking at options to run Berrien Bus now that management company Transportation Management Inc. is terminating its contract, effective June 30.

"Nobody saw this one coming," Administrator Bill Wolf said during the meeting, which was held virtually Thursday due to health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said the county was notified of TMI's decision last week, giving the county just six weeks to put together a temporary plan to keep the buses running, not only for Berrien Bus, but for Buchanan Dial-A-Ride, which contracts with the county to provide bus services.

The temporary plan calls for county staff to take over management of bus services until a longer-term solution is found.

"This is not a service plan that we're proposing," Wolf said. "This is a survival plan until ... we can put a service plan together."

County commissioners said they need time to look into the situation.

Staff was directed to discuss options before next week's meeting with Commissioners Jim Curran, Teri Freehling and Bob Harrison, who are members of the Berrien County Transportation Advisory Committee.

County Transportation & Planning Coordinator Evan Smith said TMI employs 17 full-time and two part-time workers to run Berrien Bus and Buchanan Dial-A-Ride. That includes 12 drivers, a mechanic, two dispatchers, an operations manager and an assistant manager, along with a part-time maintenance assistant and part-time vehicle washer.

But he said the bus service is operating at about 25 percent capacity due to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order suspending all flex route service and nonessential demand response service, as of March 18, in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

Smith said staff is proposing to hire about half of the TMI workers, with county staff temporarily absorbing the administrative duties.

In addition, Smith reported on the financial health of Berrien Bus during the pandemic.

He said the drop in revenue from fares and contracts will be at least partially made up by the federal reimbursement doubling from 18 percent to 36 percent of budgeted expenses, due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 27.

"This is a huge shot in the arm," he said.

Plus, he said a drop in contracts and fares means a drop in expenses.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

I FIGURED OUT MY BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN WORKING AT HOME
LACK OF HUMAN CONTACT?
NO, CHOOSING WHICH NIGHTTIME PAJAMAS TO CHANGE INTO FROM MY DAYTIME PAJAMAS

HI & LOIS

BC

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

DO YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES TO COME TALK TO ME ABOUT THE PROJECT TIMELINE?
YES, BUT IT ISN'T WORTH EXPOSING MYSELF TO YOUR VIRUS-DROPLET HELLSCAPE.
I'LL JUST GUESS WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE SAID.
I THINK THAT'S BEST.

GARFIELD

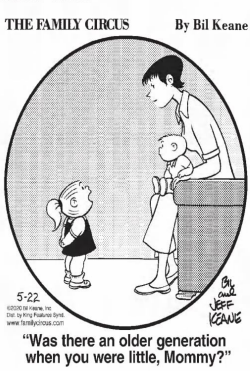
FORT KNOX

WHY IS PONALP GROUNDED???
BECAUSE HE WANTS TO SHUT POWN HIS "GOFUNPME" PAGE.
BUT THAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!!
NO, IT ISN'T! I'M GETTING A PORTION OF THE MONEY.
FINE...THEN WHEN CAN HE SHUT IT POWN??
WHEN HE GOES TO COLLEGE.

PICKLES

LOOK AT YOU, ROSCOE. ALL YOU DO IS LIE AROUND THE HOUSE.
LOOK...YOU LEAVE YOUR THINGS ALL OVER FOR ME TO PICK UP
AND YOU WHINE WHEN YOUR DINNER ISN'T READY WHEN YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE.
I SWEAR YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE MAN IN A FUR COAT.

FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE

BABY BLUES

CURTIS

WHEN MY MUSTACHE AND BEARD GROW IN, I'LL BE LIKE A KING!
YOU EVEN SEE BALD GUYS WITH THEM! AND YOU'D BETTER NOT TELL THEM THEY LOOK STUPID!
KING, LIKE THE NOBLE LION, POWERFUL AND STRONG! HEAR ME ROAR!!
SCOTTISH TERRIERS HAVE MUSTACHES AND BEARDS!
HEAR ME BARK

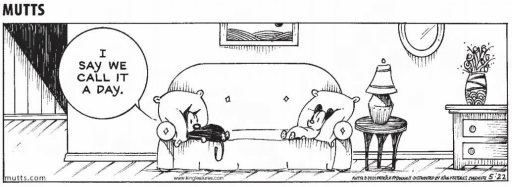
ZITS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

OH NO! MY CRYSTAL BALL STOPPED WORKING!
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN TODAY!
BECAUSE YOU SAW THE FUTURE?
NO, BECAUSE I MADE THE FINAL INSTALLMENT PAYMENT ON IT YESTERDAY!

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MUTTS



SALLY FORTH

YOUR STORE HAS MADE IT THROUGH TOUGH TIMES BEFORE. REMEMBER THE HOLIDAY SEASON?
THAT FEELS LIKE AN EON AGO.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS I HAVE HOPE. I BELIEVE IN YOU. AND I'LL HELP YOU ANY WAY I CAN.
THANK YOU, SWEETIE.
NOW LET'S HELP A LOCAL RESTAURANT AND ORDER DELIVERY, THOUGH NOW I REALLY WISH THAT S'MORES CHAIN WAS STILL IN BUSINESS.

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PRIME TIME TV

FRIDAY EVENING MAY 22

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC (7) (10) (41) (57)	Wheel of Fortune	Shark Tank (CC) (DVS)		:01 20/20 (N) (CC)			
CBS (2) (3) (22)	Ent. Tonight	MacGyver (CC)		Magnum P.I. "Payback for Beginners"		Blue Bloods Jamie is under investigation.	
NBC (5) (8) (16)	Ac. Hollywood	Celebrity Escape Room (CC)		Dateline NBC (N) (CC)			
FOX (17) (22) (28) (32)	Modern Family	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (N) (L)				Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) (CC)	
PBS (34)	Overheard	Washington Week	Firing-Hoover	American Masters "Sammy Davis, Jr." Sammy Davis Jr.'s career. (CC) (DVS)			
CW (25)	Big Bang Theory	Masters of Illusion	Masters of Illusion	Whose Line Is It?	Whose Line Is It?	News	Seinfeld (CC)
MNT (39)	Family Feud	Chicago P.D. "Profiles" (CC) (DVS)		CSI: Miami "Getting Axed" (CC)		CSI: Miami Horatio's son seeks his help.	
WCIU (26)	Mike & Molly	Masters of Illusion	Masters of Illusion	Whose Line Is It?	Whose Line Is It?	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls
WHME (46)	:00 Heartland	Heartland "Something in the Night"		Highway to Heaven "Playing for Keeps"		Nightly News	
WGN (9)	News	black-ish	black-ish (CC)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) (CC)	
A&E	5:00 Live PD (CC)	Live PD: Rewind (N) (CC)		Live PD "Live PD -- 05.22.20" (N) (L) (CC)			
AMC	:00 ★★★ G.I. Jane ('97) Demi Moore. A female Navy SEALs recruit completes rigorous training. (CC)					Friday Night In	Ghost
Animal	Monsters	River Monsters: Deadliest Man-eaters (N)				River Monsters	
BET	5:30 Takers		★★★ About Last Night ('14) Kevin Hart. (CC)				
Big Ten	College Basketball From Jan. 4, 2020.			B1G		Illinois Football	
Bravo	Housewives	Real Housewives/ Beverly		★★ Sweet Home Alabama ('02) Reese Witherspoon, Josh Lucas. (CC)			
Cartoon	We Bare	American	American	American	Rick	Rick	Burgers
Cinemax	Don't Let Go ('19)	★★ The Mule ('18) Clint Eastwood, Bradley Cooper. (P). (CC)				★ Little Fockers ('10) (CC)	
CMT	Last Man	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
CNBC	Special	Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal	
CNN	OutFront	Erin Burnett OutFront		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Patton Oswalt	
Discovery	Bering Sea Gold	Bering Sea Gold "Back in the Ring"		All on the Line (Series (P)) (N)		Gold Rush: The Dirt (N) (CC)	
Disney	Bunk'd	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Gabby	Coop
DIY	Beach	Beachfrnt Reno		Beachfrnt Reno		Beachfrnt Reno	
E!	Easy A	★ Coyote Ugly ('00) Piper Perabo.				Sex-City	Sex-City
ESPN	Sports.	★★★ Miracle ('04, Drama) Kurt Russell.					SportCtr
ESPN2	Studio	Top Rank Box		Top Rank Box		Top Rank Box	
ESPNC	Baseball	MLB Baseball From Oct. 18, 1977.				MLB Baseball	
Food	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) (CC)		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Michigan	Detroit Tigers Classics (N)					
Freefrm	The Blind Side ('09)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
FX	6:00 ★★ Red Sparrow ('18) Jennifer Lawrence. (CC)			AKA Jane Roe A portrait of Norma McCorvey. (N) (CC)			
Golf	:00 PGA Tour Golf (CC)					LPGA Tour Golf	
Hallmark	Love Romance	Christmas at Pemberley Manor ('18) Jessica Lowndes, Michael Rady. (CC)				Golden Girls	Golden Girls
HBO	:35 ★★ Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw ('19) Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham. (CC)					Real Time With Bill Maher (N) (CC)	
History	Aliens	Ancient Aliens		:02 Ancient Aliens		:05 Ancient Aliens	
HGTV	Dream	Dream	Dream	Lottery Dream Home		Dream	Dream
Learning	90 Day	90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days (N)				90 Day	90 Day
Lifetime	Baby Mama	★★★ Wedding Crashers ('05, Comedy) Owen Wilson, Vince Vaughn, Christopher Walken. (CC)					King of Queens
MSNBC	Decision	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	6:30 ★★ 17 Again ('09)			Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Sports	White Sox Rewind (N)					Classics
NFL	NFL Total	Move the Sticks		NFL Total Access		Around the NFL	
Nick	:00 Shrek Forever After			Dylan	Sponge.	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Lockup	Lockup: Boston		Lockup: Boston		Lockup: Cincinnati	
Oxygen	Dateline: Secrets	Dateline: Secrets Uncovered (N) (CC)		Snapped "Joyce Sturdivant" (CC)		Snapped "Margaret Litchfield" (CC)	
Parmt	Two Men	★★★ Independence Day ('96) Will Smith, Bill Pullman. (CC)					
Showtime	:40 ★★★ Kill Bill: Vol. 2 ('04) Uma Thurman. An assassin confronts her former boss and his gang.					SCB30 (CC)	
Starz	Equalizer	★★ Think Like a Man ('12) Michael Ealy, Jerry Ferrara, Meagan Good. (CC)				:05 Hightown "Love You Like a Sister"	
STZENC	:15 ★★★ RoboCop ('87) Peter Weller, Nancy Allen. (CC)			★★★ Predator ('87, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Carl Weathers. (CC)			
SyFy	:00 ★★★ Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets ('02) Daniel Radcliffe. A malevolent force threatens the students at Hogwarts. (CC) (DVS)						
TBS	Bob's Burgers	★★ San Andreas ('15, Action) Dwayne Johnson. A rescue pilot must save his family after an earthquake.					Walking Tall ('04)
TCM	Legend-Lylah	★★ Mad Monster Party? ('67, Children's) Voices of Boris Karloff, Phyllis Diller.				★★ The Daydreamer ('66)	
TMC	6:15 Adrift	★★★ Good Will Hunting ('97, Drama) Matt Damon, Robin Williams. (CC)				:10 Searching for Bobby Fischer	
TNT	:00 ★★ The Magnificent Seven ('16) (CC) (DVS)					All Elite Wrestling	
Travel	Paranorm.	Paranormal Ca.		Paranormal Caught on Camera (CC)			
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Two Men	Two Men
USA	:00 Chicago P.D. (CC) (DVS)	Chicago P.D. "Outrage"		Chicago P.D. "Night in Chicago"		Chicago P.D. "Ties That Bind"	
VH1	RuPaul	RuPaul's Drag Race (N) (CC)				★★ Daddy's Little Girls	
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing

Hernias often need surgery to correct

DEAR DOCTOR: If you've got an abdominal hernia and it doesn't bother you, can you just leave it alone? How is it treated? I've read about using mesh, but apparently some of them have turned out to be defective.

DEAR READER: The muscles that surround the abdominal cavity play a number of important roles. They support upright posture and controlled movement; aid in breathing; and play a role in urination, bowel movements, coughing, singing, vomiting and childbirth. They also keep the abdominal organs, tissues and intestines safely in place. When these muscles develop an opening that allows fatty tissue or a portion of the intestine to protrude, it's known as a hernia. Although the majority of hernias develop in the abdominal area, they can also occur in the region of the groin and the upper thigh.

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors

Abdominal hernias are common. They can occur in anyone, including babies, children and women, but are most often seen in men over the age of 40. When a hernia develops, you will notice a swelling or lump that is present when you're standing up or using your abdominal muscles. The swelling will often vanish when you lie down. The condition is usually pain-free in its early stages. Some people report feeling pressure, or a tugging sensation, at the site of the hernia. None of the different types of hernia will heal on its own.

When a hernia is small and painless, some doctors recommend watchful waiting, perhaps with the use of supportive garments. But studies have shown that when left untreated, a hernia will often continue to grow in size and eventually begin to cause pain. In the most severe cases, a hernia can become strangulated. This occurs when the surrounding muscle contracts and cuts off the blood supply to the protruding tissue. That means that a portion of intestines inside the body are also starved of blood. Symptoms of a strangulated hernia include sudden and severe pain, bloody stool, fever, nausea and vomiting, inability to pass gas, constipation and exhaustion. A strangulated hernia is a serious and life-threatening condition that requires immediate medical treatment.

Hernias that grow larger over time or begin to cause pain require surgical repair. The procedure involves first returning the displaced tissues to their proper place in the abdomen, and then repairing the gap in the muscles. This is done by either sewing a patch of surgical mesh over the weakened area or with stitches.

The procedure can be a laparoscopic surgery, which is a minimally invasive technique performed through tiny incisions in the abdomen, or via open surgery. This involves the same series of repairs, but through a larger incision. In most cases, a hernia repair is an outpatient procedure and doesn't require an overnight hospital stay.

Hernias have a high rate of recurrence, and surgical mesh is most effective at strengthening the weakened area. And, while it's true that some brands of surgical mesh have been subject to recalls, those products are no longer on the market. Be sure to share your concerns with your surgeon, who will help you choose the best treatment for your specific situation.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthe doctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Husband disapproves of quarantine disparity

DEAR CAROLYN: My husband, "Joe," and I are embarrassingly lucky: We're used to working from home and not afraid for our jobs, have no family or dear friends we're acutely anxious for, and are doing our best to help neighbors. We differ only in how much each of us feels it's OK to benefit from our luck.

Local rules allow driving somewhere nice to then walk/cycle for exercise (with social distancing). Joe says we shouldn't do that, since others have no car or are confined to home. He was upset that I did a long, exercise-essential walk to the other side of town, and bought ingredients not to be had nearer, so I could bake some treats. He doesn't think we should buy stuff online for our at-home exercise and keeping-me-sane hobbies; he says they're not essential and we should make do without because others can't afford such things, and we put the delivery people at risk.

Carolyn Hax

I know we already lived in a grotesquely unequal society, with lockdown imposing a different set of inequalities on top of that. Joe feels that if everyone can't enjoy something, then we shouldn't either. I can't see what I'd be helping if I denied us such things, and we're beginning to scratch at each other over it. How do we navigate this? – Lucky

LUCKY: I admire Joe's compassion and sincerity, if not his logic.

About 10 percent of the global population lacks electricity or clean water. Is he giving up those?

Pandemic ethics are a worthwhile conversation, profoundly so, but empathy alone won't improve the lots of people suffering. And a purity contest of giving up X and Y, but not Z, based on proximity and perception, is more of a personal sleep aid than a solution to inequality.

I hope instead you and Joe agree that you disagree only within a rather narrow band of like-mindedness on your good fortune and your obligation to share it. Then I hope you turn your collective attention to ways you can live through this time in direct service of people who need help.

One basic example: Delivery people who don't deliver don't get paid.

And many people really, really need to get paid right now, making their own risk assessments to do this.

So using your good fortune in their service would involve buying the products they deliver, tipping them generously and pressuring the relevant powers that be to pay them more. Instead of withdrawing your demand, supply your business conscientiously.

You don't have to massage the ideals very hard to support exercise, either. Maybe your cardiac strength isn't a factor in emergency rooms today or tomorrow – but as we witness an interconnected, interdependent society strain its health systems, we don't-tell-me-what-to-do! Americans can learn a lesson in the collective benefit of taking care of ourselves. It serves no one to squander permitted access to fitness.

We could parse these details all day, but ultimately that's more fiddling. If Joe wants to make a difference, then hand him this encouragement to apply his formidable self-discipline toward political action. It might ease his anxiety, too, which might be behind this, yes? That warrants a screening, if true.

Skipping muffins helps his conscience more than his cause. Backing his beliefs with effort, talent, cash: That makes a mark.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Church response
5 Coach
8 Corp. officers
11 Spring fragrance
13 Invoice no.
14 Feel awful
15 Loaf part
16 Tinned fish
18 Unskilled writer
20 Possessed
21 North Woods animal
23 College stat
24 Unlucky gambler's note
25 Tube trophy
27 Salespeople, for short
31 Coiled hairdo
32 Not shallow
33 Herr's wife
34 Need a scratch
36 Ship's prow
38 Zero
39 One-time Queens ballpark
40 Stick
41 India — 42 All-purpose MDs
44 White heron
46 Standard of perfection
49 Where India is
50 Withdraw
52 More agreeable
56 Fleming of 007 fame
57 Elephant quarters
58 Stare balefully
59 Mexican Mrs.
60 Rand of fiction
61 Exceeded the limit

DOWN
1 Capp and Jolson
2 $1,000,000, slangily
3 Yalie
4 Salsa go-with
5 Soak up the sun
6 "Pulp Fiction" name
7 Razor honer
8 Futile
9 Fragrant tree
10 It runs on runners
12 Halted
17 Tower over
19 Glues tight
21 River terminus
22 Weight unit
23 Wanderers
24 Long-legged wader
26 Cat's plaint
28 Bushmiller or Els
29 Do watercolors
30 Pout
35 Helga's husband
37 — on (inciting)
43 Public square
45 Locomotive need
46 Orchidlike flower
47 Expensive
48 Still-active volcano
49 Egyptian god
51 Bashful
53 Head warmer
54 Previous to
55 Florid

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	U	L		S	P	A	M		P	O	D		
E	M	M	A		N	O	G	O		A	V	E		
L	I	P	S		A	S	A	N		N	E	W		
T	E	S	T	I	F	Y		A	N	G	R	Y		
		I	S	U		C	C	I						
E	V	E	N	T		P	E	O	P	L	E			
G	A	N	G		S	A	D		U	P	O			
O	L	D		C	O	R	E		T	R	I	O		
		E	S	C	A	P	E		E	R	E	C	T	
		R	S				E		S	E				
R	E	F	E	R		F	L	A	K	I	N	G		
A	N	A		D	A	F		K	O	O	L			
P	I	N		V	E	I		E	T	R	E			
T	D	S		O	X	E	N		D	A	M	E		

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HWLAS

RVEOP

TTOKYN

BEENTA

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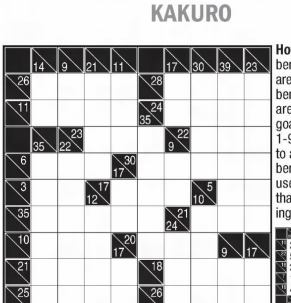
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SORRY SNORT HELMET BIRDIE
Answer: The 5-foot-2-inch military leader got his troops to stand at attention — IN SHORT ORDER

KAKURO



How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.

Difficulty Level ★★★★

5/22

	4\11	9\16	2\17	1\11	5\17	2\13	1\3	
	5\8	9\26	7\9	6\8	8\22	2\9	3\7	
	3\4	2\12	1\8		3\9	1\4		
	1\6		4\6	1\7	2\3			
4\11	9\12	2\3		7\9	6\3			
3\4		6\3	1\2		9\7	2\3		
3\1	2\3		8\9	6\7	2\3			
9\5	8\3	7\		9\8	4\3			
	3\9	1\6		8\2	1\3			

BRIDGE

William Hazlitt claimed that when great thoughts are reduced to practice, they become great acts. Well, this might be overstating matters in a field of endeavor like bridge, but the idea is reasonable.

On today's deal, North's two-heart cue-bid showed a good hand with at least three spades.

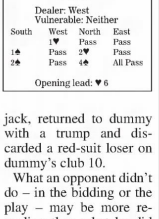
When West led the heart six, South assessed the situation. Why hadn't West led the heart king? Presumably because he didn't have both the king and queen. Mentally, South placed one of these cards in the East hand. Why hadn't West led a top diamond? Clearly because he didn't have the ace and king. South gave a diamond honor to East.

But East had passed over his partner's opening bid. The mist was clearing. If East had two red-suit honors, West had to have the black-suit queens.

South won the first trick with dummy's heart ace, played a spade to his ace and led a low spade, finessing dummy's nine when West followed with the six. After cashing the spade king, South paused again. West was known to have three spades and five hearts. One diamond and four clubs was surely impossible. With eight diamonds, East would have bid.

West had to have at most three clubs. Therefore, South played a club to his king and led the club two. When the queen appeared, South won with dummy's ace, played a club to his jack, returned to dummy with a trump and discarded a red-suit loser on dummy's club 10.

What an opponent didn't do – in the bidding or the play – may be more revealing than what he did do.



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

		9		1		7		3
	2			3			5	8
			8	9				
				2				6
	3	8	4	5	1	2	7	
2				8				
				4	3			
7	1			6			2	
5		4		7		3		

5/22

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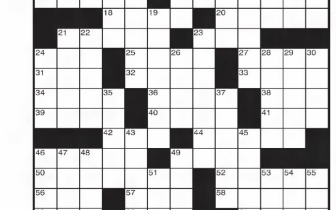
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7	1	6	4	9	8	3	5	2
5	4	8	1	2	3	6	7	9
9	3	2	7	6	5	1	8	4
3	5	7	8	1	2	4	9	6
2	8	4	6	7	9	5	1	3
1	6	9	3	5	4	8	2	7
4	2	5	9	8	6	7	3	1
8	7	3	2	4	1	9	6	5
6	9	1	5	3	7	2	4	8



5-22

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LEGALS

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

FRIDAY, MAY 22

Working toward your long-term plans will help you avoid getting involved in trivial matters. Organize your time, put a budget in place and do whatever it takes to stay on course. The opportunity to accomplish something great is within reach. Distance yourself from troublemakers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Stay on top of what's important. How you go about your responsibilities will be critical to your standing. Protect your reputation and position.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Take part in a movement that will benefit your community. Your input will be well received and will give your reputation a boost. Negotiations will lead to positive change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Check out what's available to figure out the best way to make the most of what you've got. A personal makeover will result in positive attention. Romance is favored.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Proceed with caution. Be aware of what everyone around you is doing. Avoid trouble by making adjustments that will allow you to work on projects you can do by yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You can make personal improvements if you sign up for a correspondence course, engage in a fitness routine or adjust your diet. Don't let one of your peers lead you astray.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Something will go awry if you discuss investments, contracts or legal matters. You'll get a false impression regarding what someone expects of you. Clarify what you will and won't do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Put your talent to good use. Refuse to let anyone push you in a direction you don't want to head in. Discipline will help you accomplish what you set out to do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Remember an experience whose lesson will help you avoid making the same mistake twice. A positive change will take place if you set your sights on something familiar to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Stop worrying about what others are doing and focus on what you are trying to accomplish. A change you want to make should not entail a price you cannot afford.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Be aware of what others say and do, but when it comes to your position, money matters and your health, stick to whatever works best for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Make simple, affordable plans. Emotional spending won't solve problems or make you feel better. Personal growth, fitness and good health are favored. Verify information before you share what you hear.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) An opportunity will arise if you offer suggestions. Get involved in something meaningful and dedicate your time to making a difference. A creative hobby can turn into a lucrative sideline.

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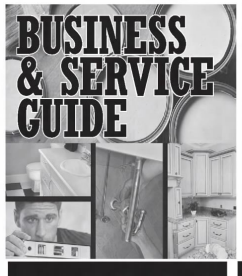
The Herald-Palladium

Classifieds Make A Cash Connection!

BUSINESS & SERVICE GUIDE



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Flood raises fears of pollution at toxic waste site

By JOHN FLESHER
AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY — It took seven years to settle on a plan for cleansing two rivers and floodplains polluted with dioxins from a Dow Chemical Co. plant in central Michigan. The work itself has lasted nearly twice as long, with plenty still to do.

Now, scientists and activists fear some of the progress may have washed away with floodwaters that overwhelmed two dams this week, chasing 11,000 people from homes in and near Midland, the company's headquarters city.

The Tittabawassee River flows past the Dow plant and eventually meets the Saginaw River, which continues into Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. That 50-mile stretch is tainted with dioxins – highly toxic compounds that researchers say can damage reproductive and immune systems and cause cancer. The area is on the federal Superfund list of hazardous sites.

Regulators and company officials said Thursday it was too early to tell whether the swollen river had damaged spots that had been repaired or swept pollutants farther downstream. Dow said it would inspect each cleanup location as floodwaters recede and sample for new contamination.

The projects "held up remarkably well" during a 2017 flood "and we are confident that we will see a similar outcome this time," spokesman Kyle Bandlow said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it would team with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to evaluate any chemical releases from the plant, although Dow had reported none. Damage from the flood three years ago was "minimal" and required only minor repairs, EPA's regional office in Chicago said.

But a similar outcome is unlikely after this week's considerably bigger flood, said Allen Burton, a professor of environment and sustainability at the University of Michigan.

"There's no reason to expect that everything would remain in the same place after a massive flood like this," Burton said. "No scientist out there would predict that will happen."

Erik Olson, a toxic chemicals specialist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, said floods produced by hurricanes have covered hazardous waste sites and carried contaminated wastes long distances.

"You can think you've contained toxic chemicals to a limited area, but a flood can scour that up and move it," Olson said. "We saw that with Katrina. What happened there is exactly what we're worrying about happening in Midland."

In a report last year, the Government Accountability Office said EPA should take additional steps to safeguard Superfund sites from the effects of climate change, including flooding that might result from heavier downpours. It said 60 percent of Superfund sites not on federal property were vulnerable to floods, storm surge, wildfires, and sea level rise associated with global warming.

Dioxins are byproducts of some of the hundreds of chemicals manufactured over the years at the Dow plant, which began operating in 1897. It now produces silicones used in a variety of home and personal care products and electronics.

The plant also has a small nuclear reactor, used for research, Bandlow said. Dow notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Tuesday that it had been shut down earlier because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Liquid wastes containing dioxins from the plant were dumped into the river in the early 20th century. The compounds later were incinerated, producing air pollution that settled into sediments, riverbanks and floodplains over decades.

Their discovery along the Tittabawassee River in 2000 sparked a lengthy clash between Dow, regulators and environmental groups over the seriousness of the problem and how to fix it.

Katy Kildee

Floodwater reaches the bottom of a stop sign, Wednesday in Midland.

Charles Krupa / AP

Shoppers enter the TJ Maxx store in Manchester, N.H. TJX Companies Inc., parent of T.J. Maxx and other discount stores reports financial results on Wednesday.

Retailers reopening, tourism expanding

NEW YORK (AP) — The outbreak of the coronavirus has dealt a shock to the global economy with unprecedented speed. Following are the mot recent developments:

Retail roundup

■ Macy's warns it could lose more than a $1 billion during its fiscal first quarter. The chain began to reopen stores earlier this month and expects most stores to be open in mid-June.

■ TJX has reopened more than 1,600 of its stores worldwide to date. The discount retailer has fully or partially reopened in 25 states. TJX Canada began reopening stores in some provinces this week, and stores in Germany, Austria, Poland, the Netherlands and Australia are fully open. Stores in the U.K. and Ireland remain closed. TJX Cos. believes that it could be mostly reopened by the end of June, based on current government guidance.

■ Best Buy managed to keep approximately 81 percent of last year's sales during the last six weeks of the first quarter via its curbside service. The electronics and appliance retailer started opening some of its stores earlier this month. It currently has nearly 700 stores, or about 70 percent, that are open using a new consultation service where customers can come into the store by appointment only.

■ Victoria's Secret said Thursday it's closing 250 stores in the next few months, about a quarter of all its stores. Its parent L Brands made that announcement as it reported a 37 percent drop in sales and widening loss for the company, dragged down by the lingerie brand. The company also operates Bath & Body Works.

Supply & demand

Redfin says 41 percent of U.S. home bids faced competing offers in the four-week period ended May 10. Redfin says the virus contributed to limited inventory. The most competitive housing markets included Boston, San Francisco and Fort Worth, Texas.

Meanwhile, sales of existing homes plunged 17.8 percent in April. The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that last month's decline pushed sales down to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.33 million units, the slowest pace since September 2011. The sales drop was the largest one-month decline since a 22.5 percent fall in July 2010.

Limited seating

■ Southwest Airlines will continue to limit seating on flights through July. CEO Gary Kelly said the airline has $13 billion in cash, "well beyond" what it would normally carry and enough to last at least 20 months – longer if there is a recovery in travel bookings.

■ The Transportation Security Administration is changing procedures at airport checkpoints by mid-June, including no longer having screeners touch boarding passes. Passengers will put their pass on the electronic reader themselves, and then hold it up for the screener to inspect. TSA will also bend its rules on liquids by allowing one larger bottle of hand sanitizer, up to 12 ounces, in carry-on bags. TSA screeners will also change gloves after each traveler pat-down. TSA recently ordered its screeners to wear face coverings, but it's not requiring travelers to wear masks.

■ Thirteen Senate Democrats are asking Delta Air Lines and JetBlue Airways not to reduce working hours for employees, saying that it violates terms of federal money they received to cope with the coronavirus pandemic. The senators said airlines "should not take one penny more of bailout funds" unless they protect worker pay and benefits.

Organized labor is pushing the issue, and United Airlines reversed a cut in hours for some workers after the machinists' union sued. The airlines say that with travel demand down about 90 percent, they don't have enough work to keep everyone on a full-time schedule. Delta and JetBlue said their moves comply with the virus-recovery measure. Delta got $5.4 billion and JetBlue got $935 million from a $25 billion fund to protect air-

Loughlin, Giannulli to serve prison time for college scam

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

"Full House" actress Lori Loughlin has agreed to serve two months behind bars and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, has agreed to serve five months as part of a deal to plead guilty to cheating the college admissions process, according to court papers filed Thursday.

Loughlin, 55, and Giannulli, 56, are scheduled to plead guilty Friday via video conference before a federal judge in Boston, who must approve the deal.

It's a stunning reversal for the famous couple who insisted for the last year they were innocent and that investigators had fabricated evidence against them. Their decision comes about two weeks after the judge rejected their bid to dismiss the case over allegations of misconduct by federal authorities.

"I think they made a calculated assessment that the risks were just too great" to bring the case to trial, said former federal prosecutor Bradley Simon.

They were scheduled to go to trial in October on charges that they paid $500,000 in bribes to get their two daughters into the University of Southern California as crew team recruits, even though neither of them played the sport. They helped create fake athletic profiles for their daughters by sending the admitted ringleader of the scheme, admissions consultant Rick Singer, photos of the teens posing on rowing machines, authorities said.

Lawyers for Loughlin and Giannulli had argued that the couple believed the payments were "legitimate donations" that would go directly to USC as a fundraising gift or support Singer's charity. They also accused prosecutors of hiding crucial evidence that could prove the couple's innocence because it would undermine their case.

They agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud in a plea agreement filed in Boston's federal court. Giannulli will also plead guilty to a charge of honest services wire and mail fraud, prosecutors said. Prosecutors have agreed to dismiss charges of money laundering and federal programs bribery that were added after the case was filed.

Under Loughlin's plea deal, she will also pay a $150,000 fine and perform 100 hours of community service. Giannulli has agreed to pay a $250,000 fine and perform 250 hours of community service.

Simon said the couple's lawyers may think that Loughlin and Giannulli have a chance of avoiding prison altogether and serving their punishments at home because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Attorney General William Barr has ordered the Bureau of Prisons to increase the use of home confinement and expedite the release of eligible high-risk inmates because of the virus crisis. The pandemic has already delayed the prison sentences of some parents who have pleaded guilty in the college admissions case and allowed others to go home early.

"It may have been a very clever move by the lawyers," said Simon, now with the firm Windels Marx in New York.

Prosecutors were also facing the risk of embarrassment if they lost the high-profile case, and the couple's attorneys had raised some viable lines of defense for trial, said former assistant U.S. attorney Jeff Cramer.

"For both sides, from the prosecutors' side and the defense side, I think this is a fair outcome," said Cramer, now managing director of Berkeley Research Group consulting firm.

Colleges plan fall opening, but campuses won't look the same

By COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

Growing numbers of U.S. colleges are pledging to reopen this fall, with dramatic changes to campus life to keep the coronavirus at bay. Big lectures will be a thing of the past. Dorms will will be nowhere near capacity. Students will face mandatory virus testing. And at some smaller schools, students may be barred from leaving campus.

Even as some universities abandon hope of in-person instruction next semester, citing concerns from public health officials, dozens are announcing plans to welcome students back in August. They acknowledge that an outbreak could force classes back online, but many of their leaders say the financial and political pressures to reopen are too large to ignore.

At West Virginia University, President E. Gordon Gee said students don't want to wait for a vaccine, and the school can't afford to.

"If it was simply based on science, we would keep everything shut down until we have a vaccine and until it's working. But I don't feel that that's feasible, either economically or socially, and certainly not educationally," Gee said. "We will open, but it will be different."

Colleges planning to reopen include Purdue University, Texas A&M University, the University of Notre Dame and statewide systems in Arizona, Florida, New Hampshire and elsewhere. Some plan to make decisions this summer, including Princeton University, where officials say it's too soon to make a call.

The California State University system, by contrast, has said its 23 campuses will stay mostly online this fall, citing predictions of a virus resurgence later this year. Others including the University of South Carolina, Rice and Creighton universities plan to bring students back but end the term early, before Thanksgiving, anticipating a second wave could hit later in the fall.

President Donald Trump has encouraged schools to reopen despite concerns from his top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci. Speaking at a Senate hearing last week, Fauci said it would be "a bit of a bridge too far" to expect a vaccine before the fall. Trump countered that the comment was "not an acceptable answer."

New guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week say colleges should work with state and local officials to decide how to reopen. But the agency suggests a range of safety measures for campuses, saying they should keep common spaces closed if possible, hold smaller classes in larger rooms, and install plastic barriers in areas where it's hard to stay apart.

In other countries emerging from lockdown, universities have been slow to reopen. Primary schools in France were allowed to reopen earlier this month, but universities are expected to remain closed through the summer. Universities in New Zealand have been granted permission to reopen, but most say they plan to stay online until July or later.

Britain's Cambridge University announced Wednesday that all in-person lectures will be canceled through the 2020-21 academic year because of the pandemic.

In the U.S., colleges that plan to reopen have told students to expect strict social distancing measures, including mandatory use of face masks. College leaders say widespread virus testing will be the linchpin to a safe reopening. At many schools, students who test positive would be placed in dorm rooms reserved as quarantine space.

But there are questions about schools' ability to provide large numbers of tests. Some research universities say they have the lab equipment to analyze virus tests, but not enough swabs and testing chemicals. Smaller schools will need to hire companies to handle tests, likely at a significant cost.

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Trump's war on Voice of America

Kathleen Parker

Donald Trump has a way of making easy things difficult and difficult matters impossible. That is a good way to explain what is going on behind the scenes right now at the Voice of America, or VOA.

Trump recently declared war on the VOA, the government-run broadcaster that delivers news in more than 40 languages to an estimated 280 million people around the globe. And that declaration has exploded into a battle royal over Trump's nominee to become CEO of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, which oversees VOA, Radio Free Europe and the Office of Cuba Broadcasting.

Unfortunately for this columnist, the two people at the center of this tempest are both friends. I write at great risk to my personal equilibrium but for all the right reasons. I believe in both of them; I've written columns in praise of each on other matters. Besides, I'm a middle child.

The head of the VOA, Amanda Bennett, happens to be a hero of mine. Fifteen years ago, when she was editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer, she was the only editor in the United States who had the guts to publish the infamous "Danish cartoons" in solidarity with the Danish newspaper, Jyllands-Posten, and a dozen cartoonists who had received death threats for their satirical images of the Prophet Mohammed.

I wrote a column at the time praising Bennett's courage and integrity. My opinion of her has not changed, especially as she (and her broadcasting agency) have lately been in the president's crosshairs. Trump has accused the VOA of making him look bad and of publishing Chinese propaganda. Writing the news objectively will often make Trump look bad, thanks to his own behavior. But it's ludicrous to think Bennett would allow Chinese propaganda to pass as fact-based news in her global newsroom.

Necessarily, Bennett pushed back, defending the objectivity of her newsroom's Chinese reporting. In so doing, however, she has emboldened the forces trying to thwart the Senate confirmation of Michael Pack, the documentary-maker Trump has nominated to be her boss. Said one insider off the record, "Pack's not a particularly bad guy, but there are a lot of extremely bad people who will almost certainly have roles if he gets the job."

One such name belongs to former White House strategist Steve Bannon. It is true that Pack hired Bannon to consult on two documentaries, including one about Admiral Hyman Rickover, who founded the modern nuclear Navy and remains a cult hero in some conservative quarters. Bannon is a sufficiently toxic player in Washington that any contact, even professional, might seem like a reason for resistance.

Meanwhile, Trump has lent credence to some of VOA's concerns by trumpeting that Pack will "fix" everything, which is unhelpful to Pack. And while Pack may be a conservative, he's still a consummate professional. Before turning to documentaries, he has served in high-ranking positions with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Council on the Humanities and the Claremont Institute, where he was president and publisher of the esteemed Claremont Review of Books.

Fast-forward to last week when, in response to an insistent Trump, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee scheduled a Thursday hearing to push Pack's nomination through. But, the night before, Pack was served with notice (and a subpoena) that the attorney general of the District of Columbia was opening an investigation into whether he had misused funds raised for his non-profit charity, Public Media Lab, to finance his documentaries.

New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, the top Democrat on the committee, announced the investigation as well as the fact that the hearing was postponed. Which is a reminder that irony never strays far from hypocrisy. Menendez's brave defense of the Pack investigation is only slightly more impressive than the list of corruption charges leveled against the New Jersey senator a few years ago, which left a jury deadlocked but didn't stop the Senate Ethics Committee from accusing him of poor judgment that "risked undermining the public's confidence in the Senate." You can almost hear the laughter in Washington when Menendez expresses concerns about someone else's ethical improprieties.

In Pack's case, my bet is that none will be found. According to various insiders and a non-profit attorney who has experience in such things, it is both common and legal for non-profits to funnel funds to be used for other purposes, such as the making of a documentary, as long as the recipient of the diverted funds can demonstrate they were used as intended.

While Bennett may sincerely fear changes at VOA that Pack might make, there's no basis to presume he isn't equally committed to the mission of informing the broader world with respect for journalistic norms. Moreover, it would be illegal for him to alter its mission, which was established as independent and beyond the reach of meddlesome politicians.

As usual, if Trump had kept his thoughts to himself – left VOA alone and allowed Pack to speak for himself – the Agency for Global Media might have a good man at the helm. Most important, the VOA's Bennett could continue without distraction the serious work of informing the larger world and spreading the example of freedom.

Kathleen Parker is a columnist for The Washington Post.

Biden could be handing Trump his re-election

Ben Shapiro

In national polling, former vice president Joe Biden is the clear 2020 front-runner. He's up nearly 5 points in the RealClearPolitics polling average; he's up in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida and Arizona. That's because Biden campaigned as the anti-Bernie Sanders: a "return to normalcy" candidate rather than a transformational one. His entire pitch relied on his high name recognition, the general perception of his likability and his unthreatening demeanor.

The coronavirus pandemic merely underscored this pitch. Biden hasn't waned in the national polling since the pandemic – his lead has been utterly consistent. That's true even though Biden has been relegated to his basement, gaffing through completely anodyne statements about COVID-19, glitching his way to a few thousand viewers at a time, being interrupted by the birds honking outside his window.

How can a major party candidate win if nobody cares whether he's even alive? Because Biden's candidacy isn't a referendum on Biden but on Trump: President Donald Trump is widely perceived as volatile, unstable, chaotic. Biden is perceived as somnambulant. Better a sleepwalker, many voters seem to think, than the rolling chaos of a second Trump term.

Yet somehow, the Biden campaign has decided to abandon Biden's greatest advantage: his promise of a sedated interregnum. Instead, according to The New York Times, Biden's campaign will embrace radical proposals. "With Mr. Biden leading President Trump in the polls, the former vice president and other Democratic leaders are racing to assemble a new governing agenda that meets the extraordinary times – and they agree it must be far bolder than anything the party establishment has embraced before," The Times reported.

Some of the new proposals are directly from the Sanders campaign: forgiving student loans, a Green New Deal, expansion of government health care, a government jobs plan, a ban on stock buybacks and compulsion toward profit sharing for corporations.

Meanwhile, former President Barack Obama explained over the weekend that the coronavirus has merely underscored deep-seated American racism that requires a complete remaking of our society. Equating disparate health and incomes between black Americans and white Americans due to COVID-19 with the shooting of black Georgian Ahmaud Arbery – and citing both as legacies of America's historic racism – Obama stated, "No generation has been better positioned to be warriors for justice and remake the world."

But do Americans really want the world remade? Or are they simply longing for the world of four months ago, when unemployment stood at 3.5 percent, when incomes were rising at the lowest end of the income scale, when Americans could attend events without fear of infection and death? Are Americans truly desperate for a reshaping of our medical system, a universal basic income and trillions more in debt?

Biden seems to be betting on the latter. And that's idiocy of the highest order. It completely undermines his entire case for the nomination; it allows Trump to place the new radical agenda front and center, rather than his own foibles. Biden's go-for-broke strategy is a massive opportunity for Trump – if Trump doesn't blow it.

Ben Shapiro is editor-in-chief of DailyWire.com.

LETTERS

State should waive driver road test

Editor,

I am curious to know how the Secretary of State office, an already overwhelmed system, plans to navigate reopening with a backlog that is sure to be in the thousands for services that are on hold through our government shutdown.

Specifically, I am writing on behalf of the teenagers who have jumped the hoops toward their drivers license only to be stalled by the state road test. Many states with far less preparatory requirements do not offer a final road test. Michigan requires 50+ hours of behind the wheel with a parent, 24 hours of classroom instruction, six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction, four hours of observation time with a trained driver education instructor, followed by Segment 2 (three continuous months with 30 hours of driving experience, a minimum of two hours of night driving and six more hours of classroom instruction). Can you imagine going through all of this to have a 20-minute state road test hold you back?

Several attempts to contact the governor to request she consider an executive order to temporarily waive the state road test (administered in this area by three companies – also responsible for CDL and motorcycle licenses) have fallen on deaf ears and have not been dignified by a response from her office.

Perhaps the governor could "lighten the burden" and alleviate the "stress" for the students and families affected by shutdown by waiving the state road test. Students and their families are caught in limbo because their final hoop was canceled out from under them. Many businesses throughout the state are closed, but many in our area are operating and some are hiring. Students who are not able to obtain a driver's license are thus crippled from applying for or working these jobs.

This process has already been delayed for three months – with no end in sight. How many more months, after we finally open, will it take for the companies to administer drivers tests and the Secretary of State to catch up on the backlog of teenage drivers, motorcycle and commercial licenses that are being held? This is in addition to the already overwhelmed department responsibilities that existed pre-virus.

Teenagers have sacrificed classroom education, prom, graduation, sports seasons, activities, and in many cases the jobs that are crucial for them every summer to save for continuing education and tuition. The governor has faced some tough opposition to her strict closures. Could she do this one thing in a goodwill, good faith gesture?

If you want your voice on this matter to be heard, please reach out to Gov. Whitmer – but don't hold your breath for a response.

Online petition: https://www.change.org/do-the-waive

Melissa Teed
Berrien Springs

It's time to take our country back

Editor,

In the year 1942, I joined the United States Navy (WAVES) because I believed in the goodness of our country. In the year 1945, I was discharged. The war was over. I was 23 years old and looking forward to building my future, a future of prosperity and peace.

In the year 2020, I look back on my life experiences: the wars, the assassinations, the civil rights movement, the feminist movement the first house I ever owned, the seven children I brought into the world. So many memories.

Today I was blown away by the decision for the court to dismiss the charges of Michael Flynn, a man who confessed to his guilt two times before the FBI. However, the leader of our country called him "a hero." Never in my wildest dreams would I have believed it if I didn't hear those words by the president of the United States of America.

Where are the voices for those for whom we voted? Why are they not shouting out in dismay? What has happened to our proud history of justice, of our culture, of honesty? Are we becoming a nation of fear? Afraid to share our feelings, opinions, imaginations and even our love?

As Trump slowly carves out his kingdom we are becoming a replica of Russia. Stop! It is time for a fight. It is the future of our children and grandchildren.

To the Republicans in the Senate, in the House, the men and women, listen carefully. Have you forgotten kindness and friendship? There is sadness in this country. Please, speak out, set an example of courage and save our United States of America, land of the free and home of the brave.

Gloria Weberg
St. Joseph

Rural areas could lose postal service

Editor,

The letter "Don't privatize postal service" published in your issue of May 15, was very informative about the true fiscal plight of the United States Postal Service. I urge everyone to read it carefully as it explains why the USPS has a deficit. In fact, before Congress mandated pre-funding of retirement programs, the post office had a $9 million surplus. No other government agency has this requirement.

As a senior citizen, I would be lost without my mail delivery of daily newspapers, medicine, various supplies, greeting cards, etc. It is even more crucial now as I do not go out due to the coronavirus. We take our mail for granted. Mail carriers have become sick and some are dying of this virus just because they are delivering our mail.

There is no profit in delivering to rural areas. If politicians privatize the USPS, rates would be raised out of sight and they could cut or eliminate home delivery for rural areas, cut window service hours, packages might have to be picked up, not delivered, etc.

Please contact your senators and representatives and tell them to support the post office and protect it from political influence. This is urgent.

Jean E. Rowe
Dowagiac

Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:

Email: letters@TheHP.com

Regular mail: Editorial Page, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085

All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification. Letters must be 500 words or fewer. The Herald-Palladium reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Stores should enforce face mask rule

Editor,

I feel sorry for the employees at the grocery and other stores where the government has said we should maintain a 6-foot distance and wear face masks. In my recent ventures, I see quite a few individuals refusing to wear masks.

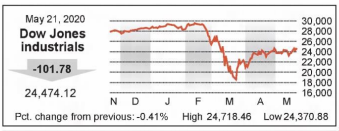
I asked an attendant at the store why they let them in. She said we cannot stop them. I feel badly for her that she is routinely subjected to their indifference for her and other customers' health.

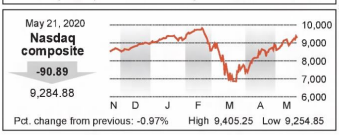
The real problem, in my opinion, is the owners of the store are afraid of losing a customer. I guess the answer could be those of us that live by the rules need to let the owners know that if they do not enforce the face coverings then we will go to a store that will. Menards enforces theirs – put a face mask on or leave, or, if you wish, we will sell one to you.

Shame on the owners for forcing their essential workers to work in such a dangerous environment.

Gaylord Rochefort
Bridgman

MARKETS





Amer Elec Power AEP
$77.37 **-1.06 -1.4%**
▼ **4-wk.** -6.8% ▼ **YTD** -18.1%

Whirlpool WHR
$119.00 **+10.20 +9.4%**
▲ **4-wk.** +16.4% ▼ **YTD** -19.3%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	52-WK RANGE HI	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	26.08	39.70	29.77	+.18	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
AEP	AEP	65.14	104.97	77.37	-.38	-0.5	▼	▼	▼
Apple Inc	AAPL	170.27	327.85	316.85	-2.38	-0.7	▲	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	684.91	1274.41	1104.47	-8.54	-0.8	▲	▲	▲
BP PLC	BP	15.51	43.00	23.38	-.24	-1.0	▲	▬	▼
CMS Eng	CMS	46.03	69.12	54.74	-.70	-1.3	▲	▼	▼
CocaCola	KO	36.27	60.07	45.17	-.72	-1.6	▲	▲	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	31.71	47.74	38.95	-.22	-0.6	▲	▲	▲
Deere	DE	106.14	180.48	142.81	+.50	+0.4	▲	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	79.07	153.41	117.83	-2.09	-1.7	▲	▲	▲
DollarTree	DLTR	60.20	119.71	81.22	+1.61	+2.0	▲	▲	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	30.11	77.93	44.56	-.81	-1.8	▲	▲	▲
FifthThird	FITB	11.10	31.64	17.45	-.25	-1.4	▲	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	26.07	53.42	31.82	+.13	+0.4	▲	▲	▼
FordM	F	3.96	10.56	5.63	+.14	+2.6	▲	▲	▲
GenElec	GE	5.48	13.26	6.48	+.06	+0.9	▲	▼	▼
HomeDp	HD	140.63	248.32	240.88	+2.69	+1.1	▲	▲	▲
HorizBcp	HBNC	7.42	19.48	9.86	+.15	+1.5	▲	▼	▬
HuntBncsh	HBAN	6.82	15.63	8.17	-.04	-0.5	▲	▲	▼
IDEX	IEX	104.56	178.14	151.56	-.81	-0.5	▲	▼	▲
IBM	IBM	90.56	158.75	119.12	-2.26	-1.9	▲	▼	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	76.91	141.10	90.17	-1.16	-1.3	▲	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	109.16	157.00	146.71	-.97	-0.7	▼	▼	▲
Lowes	LOW	60.00	126.73	120.64	+3.65	+3.1	▲	▲	▲
McDnlds	MCD	124.23	221.93	185.08	+.98	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
Microsoft	MSFT	119.01	190.70	183.43	-2.23	-1.2	▲	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	14.39	49.88	22.42	+.11	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
Perrigo	PRGO	40.01	63.86	54.33	-.75	-1.4	▲	▲	▲
Pfizer	PFE	27.88	44.56	37.26	-.37	-1.0	▼	▲	▲
ProctGam	PG	94.34	128.09	111.62	-1.66	-1.5	▼	▼	▲
RepubSvc	RSG	65.37	100.91	80.81	-.90	-1.1	▲	▲	▲
Steelcse	SCS	7.02	23.02	11.12	+.04	+0.4	▲	▲	▲
Stryker	SYK	124.54	226.30	185.09	-5.89	-3.1	▲	▲	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	16.96	47.46	26.50	-.21	-0.8	▲	▲	▲
Target	TGT	70.71	130.24	118.68	-.95	-0.8	▼	▲	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	63.89	114.25	108.95	+1.16	+1.1	▼	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	82.00	125.31	97.31	+.13	+0.1	▲	▼	▲
VerizonCm	VZ	48.84	62.22	53.97	-.29	-0.5	▼	▼	▲
WEC Engy	WEC	68.01	109.53	86.68	-.62	-0.7	▲	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	100.25	133.38	124.99	-.46	-0.4	▼	▼	▲
WalgBoots	WBA	36.65	64.50	39.75	-.39	-1.0	▲	▼	▼
Wendys Co	WEN	6.82	24.04	20.86	+.40	+2.0	▬	▲	▲
Whrlpl	WHR	64.00	163.64	119.00	+.14	+0.1	▲	▲	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	19.28	44.69	27.02	-.38	-1.4	▲	▲	▲
XPO Logis	XPO	38.47	100.18	73.12	+.99	+1.4	▲	▲	▲

PRODUCE PRICES

The following fruit prices were recorded on the Chicago Terminal Market on Wednesday. These prices were provided by the USDA Market News Branch office in Chicago.

APPLES: Cartons tray pack of Washington Extra Fancy 72s Red Delicious sold from mostly $26-27, Golden Delicious sold for $34, Fuji sold higher for $34-35, Pink Lady brought $38, Gala sold from mostly $35-36, and 72 size Honeycrisp of fine appearance offerings brought $54. Cartons of 12 3-pound film bags of Washington WA Extra Fancy 2 1/2-inch minimum Red Delicious sold from $23-24, while Golden Delicious brought $21-22, Gala sold lower from mostly $22-23, while bushel cartons loose of Michigan 3 inch minimum Golden Delicious, Gala and Jonagold brought $20.

ASPARAGUS: Pyramid cartons/crates 11-pound bunched standard size from Peru sold lower for $35, while large white bunched from Peru sold steady for $27, while pyramid cartons/crates 28 pound bunched from Washington brought $68.50. Organic standard size green offerings in cartons of 11 pound bunched from Mexico sold steady from mostly $22-24.

BEANS: Bushel cartons/crates of round green type hand-picked offerings from Florida sold for $21-22, with machine-picked offerings from Georgia $14.50-15.

BERRIES: Flats of 12 1-pint cups with lids of medium-large size from Mexico sold for $22, while 6-ounce cups with lids offerings from Georgia sold from $18-19, and Mexico brought $16. Organic offerings from Mexico sold from $16-18. Strawberries in flats of 12 1-pound containers medium size from California sold steady from $12-14, with fine appearance offerings higher from $18-20, while organic offerings sold from $18-21.

BROCCOLI: Cartons of 14 bunches from California sold higher from $17-18, with organic offerings higher for $20.

CABBAGE: 50-pound cartons of round green medium from Georgia sold higher from $23-24.50, while red offerings sold for $23.50-24.

CAULIFLOWER: Cartons of 12 film wrapped heads from California sold higher from mostly $17-18, with organic offerings steady for $21.50-22.

CORN: Wirebound crates of four dozen bi-color from Florida sold for $18.

CUCUMBERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons from Mexico of medium size sold for $16-17, with selects lower for mostly $12-12.50 and large $11-12, while carton 24s sold slightly lower from mostly $7-8. Pickles of 200-300 size from Mexico sold steady for $28-28.50.

EGGPLANT: 1-1/9-bushel cartons of 24-count eggs from Mexico sold steady from mostly $32-33, with organic offerings steady for $28.

LETTUCE: Cartons film wrapped 24 heads of iceberg lettuce from California sold higher from mostly $18-20, with organic offerings $21.

ORANGES: Cartons of 10 4-pound film bags of Florida 80 size Valencia juice oranges sold for $22-23, while 72 count California navels sold from $24-27.

PEPPERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons of Mexico green jumbos sold for $36, large brought $33, with choppers higher from mostly $25-26. Medium size jalapeno peppers from Mexico sold for $20-22, while extra-large poblano sold for $22, extra-large serranos sold from mostly $39-41, and medium Hungarian wax sold steady for $34.

SQUASH: 4/7-bushel cartons of small-medium zucchini sold steady for $18 with medium zucchini from Mexico $16, while small-medium size yellow straightneck sold steady from $19.50-20, with medium size $18-19. 1 1/9-bushel cartons from Mexico of large size acorn sold steady from $16-18, while butternut medium sold from $16-18, and spaghetti small size brought $16-18.

TOMATOES: 25-pound cartons loose mature greens 5x6s from Florida sold higher from $28-30, and cartons 2-layer offerings from Mexico of 4x5 size sold steady for $32. Flats 12 1-pint containers with lids of light red-red medium size grape tomatoes from Florida sold steady from mostly $10-11. Cartons of 12 1-pint baskets of cherry type red from Florida sold slightly higher for mostly $12-13. Plum tomatoes packed in 25-pound cartons loose of extra-large and large size from Mexico sold slightly higher from $16-18.

OBITUARIES

Edward G. 'Ed' Kolm

June 1, 1931 – May 20, 2020

Edward G. "Ed" Kolm, 88, of Berrien Springs passed away on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, peacefully at his home.

A graveside celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, May 22, at Union Cemetery in Berrien Center, with Pastor Robert Duehlmeyer officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Berrien County Youth Fair, P.O. Box 7, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.heritage-chapel.com.

Ed was born in Evanston, Ill., to Gustav and Marie (Laube) Kolm, on June 1, 1931. He graduated from Benton Harbor High School in 1949. He then enlisted in the United States Navy, where he proudly served his country for four years before being honorably discharged in 1955. On Oct. 5, 1957, Ed married the love of his life, Barbra Foster, at the First Presbyterian Church in Niles. He worked as a postal worker for the United States Postal Service before his retirement in 1992.

Ed was a member of the Masonic Lodge-Berrien Springs/Niles and volunteered for the Berrien County Youth Fair. He enjoyed fixing things and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Most of all, he loved to spend his time with his family, especially with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ed is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbra Kolm, of Berrien Springs; daughters, Carol (William) Nutt of Berrien Springs and Karen (Ken) Klug of Eau Claire; grandchildren, Amy (Fritz) Knauf, Sara (Andy) Buursma and Allyson Nutt; and great-grandchildren, Sam, Suzy, Ellie, Molly, Zoey and Dublin.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents, Gustav and Marie Kolm; sisters, Lillian Hetler, Martha Collins and Olga Johnson; and grandson, Scott Nutt.

Willie Marvin Hoyle

June 3, 1946 – May 3, 2020

Willie Marvin Hoyle, 73, of Benton Harbor transitioned to his Heavenly Father on May 3, 2020, at Medilodge of Kalamazoo.

A private service will be held. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so atwww.robbins-brothersfh.com.

Willie was born to Mark and Gracie Hoyle on June 3, 1946, in Elmore County, Ala. He graduated from Robert Russa Moton High School in Tallassee, Ala., in 1964. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. While stationed in Panama City, Fla., he met Luvern Bryant; the two dated and married June 10, 1967.

Marvin accepted Christ at an early age. He joined Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church and found his final church home at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. Marvin worked several jobs and retired from Atlantic Automotive.

Marvin is survived by his daughter, Kenya (the Rev. Thomas) Fields; son, Marvin (Kennethia) Hoyle; sister, Precious Head; brothers-in-law, J.T. Smith and Jimmy Ricks; grandchildren: Devarez Hoyle, Zavion Hoyle, Zion Hoyle, Amari Hoyle, Marvin Hoyle Jr. and Kamarra Hoyle; great-grandson, Ty'shon Hoyle; brothers and sisters: Carolyn Booth, Jessie (Mary) Whitfield, James Cooper Jr., Larry (Pam) Cooper, Dennis Cooper, Rose Cooper, Jackie Cooper and Solomon Rivers Jr.; special longtime companion, Carolyn Bledsoe; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and friends.

Marvin is preceded in death by his parents, Mark and Gracie Hoyle; former wife and friend, Luvern Hoyle; sisters: Maggie B. Smith, Marguerite Dixon, Lois E. Ricks, Mary L. McKenzie and Belinda F. Hoyle; and brother, Odell M. Hoyle.

Death notices

Janice Carden, 85, of Niles died May 20, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Allen "June" Clabin Jr., 69, of Benton Harbor died April 20, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Karen K. Siple, 57, of Niles died May 20, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Reinhard Erich Lippert

May 20, 1938 – May 15, 2020

Reinhard Erich Lippert, 81, of Benton Harbor passed away on Friday, May 15, 2020, at Caretel Inns, with his wife by his side. He celebrated his 82nd birthday on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, in Heaven.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 30, at Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Joseph. Friends may visit with the family from 4-6 p.m. Friday, May 29, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road. Burial of cremated remains will take place at a later date. Due to the uncertainty of the future of large events, these services are still tentative. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, 619 Main St., St. Joseph, or the Alzheimer's Association, 200 Turhill Dr., Suite 6, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

He is survived by his wife, Donna, of Benton Harbor; daughter, Julie Lippert-Hoge; son-in-law, Michael Hoge; and two grandchildren, Rachel and Matthew Hoge.

He is preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Luke Hoge who passed away in 1997; and siblings, Gerda, Gerhard, Horst and another sibling who passed away in Poland/Germany as a baby whose name and age is unknown.

Reinhard's family is encouraging individuals to share their photos on the funeral home website.

Allen Clabin Jr.

Feb. 11, 1951 – April 20, 2020

Allen "June" Clabin Jr., 69, of Benton Harbor departed this life April 20, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

A private service was held. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.robbinsbrothersfh.com.

Allen was born Feb. 11, 1951, in Benton Harbor, to Lena and Allen Clabin. He married Jeral Clabin in 2013.

Allen will be loved and missed by his surviving wife, Jeral Clabin; children: Lavell William, Trena Johnson, Dalisha Mosley, Lanell Parson, Kayla Turner, Monique Gordon, Bobby Burks, April Turner, Brianna Clabin, Charles Mays, Durnell Allen, Cynthia Hassel and Franklin "Jerry" Burks; 24 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and brothers and sisters: Diane Castleberry, Richard Reed, Joedean Reed, Troy Clabin, Charles Mays, Rachelle Mays, Cedric Reed and Delightful Payne.

Allen is preceded in death by his parents, Lena and Allen Clabin Sr.; one son, Allen Rice; and three brothers, Albert Clabin, Larry Clabin and Tommy Gordman.

Whitmer gives flexibility to nursing homes on virus patients

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lifted requirements that nursing homes establish special coronavirus units and admit from the hospital patients recovering from COVID-19, giving the facilities more flexibility to decide if they can safely isolate people.

The new order, issued late Wednesday, came after the Democratic governor had faced questions from lawmakers in both parties who expressed concerns that non-infected residents were being put at risk.

At least 784 nursing home residents have died from COVID-19 complications, 15 percent of Michigan's 5,129 deaths, though state health officials say the number is likely higher.

The previous orders mandated that nursing homes with at least 20 percent of their beds empty create a unit dedicated to the care of residents who test positive for the virus, have symptoms or are potentially infected. If a home had such a unit, it had to admit anyone it normally would have regardless of whether the individual had recently been discharged from a hospital treating COVID-19 patients. Nursing homes without a unit were to transfer them to regional "hub" homes with higher levels of care.

The latest order instead requires nursing homes to make "reasonable efforts" to form a coronavirus unit but also says they should not if they cannot implement effective and reliable infection-control procedures. It also does not require a home to accept a resident returning from the hospital.

"It just provides a lot more flexibility," said Melissa Samuel, president and CEO of the Health Care Association of Michigan, a trade group for 350 nursing facilities. "If they're able to safely establish units, if they have the appropriate levels of (personal protective equipment) – all of those protocols in place – that's the way that we should approach this given the particularly vulnerable population we care for."

Whitmer said the order, which continues through June 17, enhances protections for residents and employees of long-term care facilities.

At a legislative hearing last week, Senate Republicans questioned if residents without COVID-19 were being adequately protected. House Democrats also criticized the approach and recommended changes, according to Gongwer News Service.

Sen. Peter Lucido, a Republican from Macomb County's Shelby Township, has called for investigations of the previous orders.

WAYLAND

Wayland Livestock sales as of Tuesday, May 19. Prices are per pound.
Choice steers & heifers ..... $1.03-$1.11
High yielding choice & prime.. 91 cents-96 cents
Utility cows ..... 53 cents-65 cents
Canner & cutter cows ..... 40 cents-60 cents
Bulls ..... 70 cents-$1.00
Top bull calves ..... 75 cents-$1.40
Hay ..... $3.60-$7.00 per bale
Straw ..... $4.00-$5.25 per bale
For information, call 792-2296 or fax 792-8055.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

ST. JOSEPH – The following marriage licenses have been issued by Berrien County Clerk Sharon Tyler.

Taylor Renee Beukelman of Watervliet and Michael Gerard Glowacki of St. Joseph.

Madyson Joy Reava of Buchanan and Jacob Scott Weckler of Coloma.

Kanaisha Lashay Shorter of South Bend, Ind., and Kyle Van Jones of Niles.

BIRTHS

Lakeland Medical Center – St. Joseph

Benton Harbor – Boy, 8 pounds, 5 ounces, Constance Gentry, 1:55 p.m. May 18.

Benton Harbor – Girl, 6 pounds, 15 ounces, Dakesha Greely, 7:47 p.m. May 12.

Berrien Springs – Boy, 6 pounds, 8 ounces, Kelly and Brandon Stevens, 11:38 p.m. May 15.

Coloma – Girl, 9 pounds, 8 ounces, Erika Gulliver and Derek Wilkins, 3:59 p.m. May 14.

St. Joseph – Boy, 4 pounds, 8 ounces, Krista and Keith Climer, 8:22 a.m. May 14.

Stevensville – Girl, 8 pounds, 10 ounces, Brittney and Joshua Reeve, 8:29 a.m. May 21.

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4146 M-139 • St. Joseph, MI
269-429-3160

DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

Lloyd "Moe" Mollhagen, 70, of Benton Harbor, died Friday at Mercy Memorial Medical Center, St. Joseph.

A fourth generation commercial fisherman and former owner of Mollhagen's Marina, he was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, a member of the Southwest Michigan Steelheaders Association and played semi-pro baseball on the Auto Specialities Team.

35 years ago – 1985

Scott Brown, 13, a Fairplain Junior High School student, won the 1985 eighth grade state mathematics contest sponsored by the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Scott, son of Brandon and Donna Brown of Fairplain, is an 8th grader and takes second-year algebra intended for juniors at Benton harbor High School. Scott won the sixth grade MCTM state contest two years ago, was fourth statewide in the seventh grade, and was second in the regional contest for eighth graders before going on to capture the state title.

50 years ago – 1970

The Federal Communications Commission has given official approval to proceed with building and operational plans for a non-commercial FM radio station owned and operated by Andrews University.

Upon authorization of the call letters, WAUS-FM, the station will hold full legal operational privileges. With 17,000 watts, WAUS-FM will be the most powerful FM station in the Michiana area, having a primary reception range of 25 miles and a fringe reception of 75 miles.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, May 22, the 143rd day of 2020. There are 223 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On May 22, 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

On this date:

In 1761, the first American life insurance policy was issued in Philadelphia to a Rev. Francis Allison, whose premium was six pounds per year.

In 1813, composer Richard Wagner was born in Leipzig, Germany.

In 1915, the Lassen Peak volcano in Northern California exploded, devastating nearby areas but causing no deaths.

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1962, Continental Airlines Flight 11, en route from Chicago to Kansas City, Missouri, crashed after a bomb apparently brought on board by a passenger exploded, killing all 45 occupants of the Boeing 707.

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the final time (Jay Leno took over as host three days later).

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Few Showers	Scattered T-storms	Few Showers	Scattered T-storms
72°	57°	70° / 63°	75° / 65°	73° / 62°	71° / 64°

Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a slight chance of showers, high temperature of 72°, humidity of 59%. South southeast wind 3 to 6 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a slight chance of showers, overnight low of 57°. East northeast wind 1 to 5 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 6:18 a.m.
Sunset ..... 9:07 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 6:26 a.m.
Moonset ..... 9:12 p.m.

New 5/22 · First 5/29 · Full 6/5 · Last 6/13

Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High ..... 67°
Low ..... 56°
Normal High ..... 72°
Normal Low ..... 50°
Record High ..... 84° in 2009
Record Low ..... 30° in 2002

Precipitation

Yesterday ..... 0.00"
Month to date ..... 4.17"
Normal for month ..... 2.65"
Year to date ..... 16.41"
Normal Year to date ..... 11.83"

Air Quality

Yesterday 46
Main Offender ..... Ozone

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

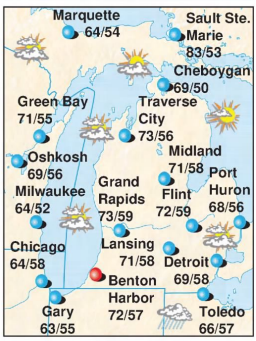
0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 ..... Sensitive
151-200 ..... Unhealthy

Weather Trivia

How fast does the average raindrop fall?

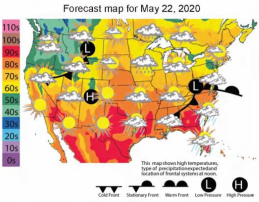
Answer: Depending on their size, raindrops fall between 7-18 mph.

Regional Map



National Weather Map

Forecast map for May 22, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, Variable winds 5 kt or less. Partly sunny. Waves around 1 ft. Water temperature 46 degrees. Tonight, Variable winds 5 kt or less. Partly cloudy. Waves around 1 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with highs from the 60s to the 80s. East northeast wind 2 to 9 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with scattered showers, highs in the 60s and 70s. East wind 1 to 9 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with isolated showers, highs in the 60s and 70s. South southeast wind 3 to 6 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with isolated showers and thunderstorms, highs in the 70s. Southeast wind 2 to 5 mph.

Forecasters see busy 2020 Atlantic hurricane season

By FREIDA FRISARO
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — With forecasters predicting another intense Atlantic hurricane season with as many as 13 to 19 named storms, disaster preparedness experts say it's critically important for people in evacuation zones to plan to stay with friends or family, rather than end up in shelters during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Shelters are meant to keep you safe, not make you comfortable," said Carlos Castillo, acting deputy administrator for resilience at FEMA.

"Social distancing and other CDC guidance to keep you safe from COVID-19 may impact the disaster preparedness plan you had in place, including what is in your go-kit, evacuation routes, shelters, and more," Castillo said. "With tornado season at its peak, hurricane season around the corner, and flooding, earthquakes and wildfires a risk year-round, it is time to revise and adjust your emergency plan now."

Six to 10 of these storms could develop into hurricanes, with winds of 74 mph or more, and three to six could even become major hurricanes, capable of inflicting devastating damage.

"It is not possible to predict how many will hit land," said Neil Jacobs, acting administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center. The agency will update the forecast in August as the Atlantic region heads into its most active months.

The region has been a "high activity era" since 1995, with warmer ocean temperatures and stronger West African monsoons causing above-average activity, NOAA forecaster Gerry Bell said.

An average Atlantic season has 12 named storms, but last year was the fourth consecutive season to have more, with 18 named storms, including three intense hurricanes – Dorian, Humberto and Lorenzo. The only other period on record that produced four consecutive above-normal seasons was 1998-2001.

The season officially extends from June through November, but Tropical Storm Arthur jumped the gun last week off the eastern U.S. coastline.

Pritzker activates Guard to help prepare for flooding

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Gov. J.B. Pritzker has activated nearly 60 Illinois National Guard soldiers and ordered additional steps by the state to prepare for projected flooding along the Illinois River and other streams.

The National Weather Service forecasts the Illinois River will reach major flood stage Saturday morning at Meredosia, about 50 miles west of Springfield, and continue to rise through the middle of next week. Without additional flood protection, water could flow over several levees and flood roads, threatening Meredosia's 980 residents, Pritzker said.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency has begun sandbagging to help communities along the river, and Pritzker has issued a state disaster proclamation for Grundy, Pike, Scott and Morgan counties. This will ensure state support to communities shoring up local levees.

"I have directed all agencies in my administration to doing everything possible to help local communities prepare for and respond to the potential flood risks presented in the current forecast," Pritzker said.

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